

dressed in blue jeans, maybe they are not, but to come in an unofficial and informal way, sit down, have a cup of coffee, and try to assess what is going on.

I appreciate the support of the Presiding Officer for this amendment, as well as others in the Senate. It is a very important amendment. I believe we owe it to our soldiers. I look forward to continuing this discussion early next week with my colleagues.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, let me just, first, thank the Senator from Vermont for his willingness to work over the next couple of days to see if we can figure out a way to address the issues, which are very important issues, that his amendments incorporate. I commend him also on his extraordinary commitment to the veterans of both wars—the ones we don't reach, as well as the ones we know about.

We are going to work with him over the next couple days to see if there is a way to work these amendments out. I appreciate his willingness to hold off offering them.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Michigan. I know his heart is in the right place. He will agree that we can spend zillions of dollars, but it doesn't do any good if it doesn't reach the people we want to reach. And we cannot turn our backs on people who fought in another war which is not in the newspaper today.

Mr. LEVIN. The American people are divided on the war, but they are not divided on supporting our troops and our veterans who fought in former wars. This unites the American people. I commend the Senator for that feeling and the strong identity he has with the men and women who have represented this country and put their lives on the line and are now hurting.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, can we determine from the Presiding Officer the pending matters? Are we in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. No. The Senate is debating the bill, H.R. 1585. Pending is the Kennedy amendment.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2640

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senators LEAHY and SCHUMER, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2640 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, I ask that a Leahy-Schumer substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended,

be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I object on behalf of Senator COBURN, who was unable to be here today. I understand he has spoken to the colleagues enumerated in this request and they are aware of the basis for his objection. So, for the moment, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the fair competition amendment proposed by my colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, to H.R. 1585, the Defense Department authorization bill.

This amendment would minimize the harmful effects that the current A-76 process for outsourcing federal functions to private contractors has on Federal workers. It will do this by leveling the playing field between Federal workers and private contractors by removing several unfair advantages that contractors currently have in the process. I want to highlight just two of the important improvements that the amendment would make to the A-76 process.

First, this amendment would take away the competitive advantage that contractors currently have if they deny their employees health and retirement benefits. I have fought to improve and protect federal workers' benefits as the chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee. At a time when more and more Americans have no health insurance, it is simply wrong to give private contractors an advantage in winning work done by DOD employees by denying their workers the health benefits that Congress has guaranteed to Federal employees.

Also, this amendment would give employees the same right to protest unfair contract awards under the A-76 process that private contractors already have. The current situation makes no sense. Private contractors were given the right to protest contracting decisions in the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, a law that was written for competitions between private contractors. The same protest right was never extended to Federal workers who compete against private contractors under the A-76 process. Basic fairness dictates that if one party can protest the results of a contest, both sides should be able to.

I believe this amendment introduces a more appropriate level of caution into the process for outsourcing Federal jobs. Caution is especially important for jobs related to national defense and security. The recent events involving Blackwater as a contract security provider in Iraq remind us how difficult it can be to hold outside contractors accountable. The Federal Government over time has been a model for fair and equal employment practices, and in turn Federal workers have shown strong loyalty, courage, and dedication to serving their country. When we award jobs that are currently done by Federal workers to private contractors, we limit our ability to demand a high level of accountability and fairness from the private companies that win the contracts, nor can we expect the same level of dedication from their employees.

When used properly on a limited basis, the A-76 process can improve Government efficiency by injecting competition into certain Federal functions that mirror activities performed by the private sector. However, the results of A-76 competitions suggest that there is limited economic value to the process. Federal employees do their jobs more efficiently than private contractors in most cases. Federal employees win 80 percent of the competitions under the A-76 process despite advantages given to private contractors. These positive results do not justify keeping the advantages granted to the private sector. Leveling the playing field will do more than make A-76 competitions objectively fairer. It can undo the harm to Federal employee morale that is caused by forcing them to compete for their jobs within a system that is rigged against them.

At a time when the Federal Government faces tremendous challenges in hiring and retaining talented workers, it is important that we act to address the harmful effects that the current A-76 process has on the Federal workforce. That is what the fair competition amendment would do, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar nominations Nos. 317 through 330 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ted F. Bowlds, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Miller, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. William E. Ward, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. David N. Blackledge, 0000

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Keith D. Jones, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Ingram, 0000

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Oliver J. Mason, Jr., 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. James N. Mattis, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Mark P. Fitzgerald, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Carl V. Mauney, 0000

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations, United

States Navy and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5033:

To be admiral

Adm. Gary Roughead, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Lawrence S. Rice, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN798 AIR FORCE nomination (41) beginning LAURA E. BARNES, and ending KEVIN L. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2007.

PN799 AIR FORCE nominations (70) beginning DANA M. ADAMS, and ending MONICA L. WHEATON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2007.

PN833 AIR FORCE nomination of William H. Sneider Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN881 AIR FORCE nomination of Frank W. Shagets, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN882 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MARK W. DUFF, and ending ANDREW STOY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN923 AIR FORCE nomination of John M. Alden Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN949 AIR FORCE nomination of Frederick M. Abruzzo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN950 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning WILLIAM W. DODSON, and ending JOHN R. SHAW, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN951 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning THOMAS E. MARCHIONDO, and ending KYUNG L. BOEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN952 AIR FORCE nominations (83) beginning DAVID W. ASHLEY, and ending MARC D. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

IN THE ARMY

PN834 ARMY nomination of Dwayne S. Tupper, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN835 ARMY nomination of Suzanne R. Todd, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN836 ARMY nomination of Ralph C. Beaton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN837 ARMY nomination of Kristen M. Bauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN838 ARMY nomination of Jose M. Torres, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN839 ARMY nominations (20) beginning RICHARD D. ARES, and ending YVETTE WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN840 ARMY nominations (12) beginning KENNETH E. DESPAIN, and ending THOMAS J. STEINBACH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN841 ARMY nominations (77) beginning MARVELLA BAILEY, and ending GAYLA W. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN842 ARMY nominations (118) beginning CARA M. ALEXANDER, and ending D060835, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN883 ARMY nomination of Shirley Haynes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN884 ARMY nomination of Adam R. Liberman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN885 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JOSEPH W. BROWN, and ending CYNTHIA D. SANCHEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN886 ARMY nomination of Pamela J. Meyers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN887 ARMY nomination of Jerry D. Michel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN888 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ANTONIO MARINEZLUENGO, and ending THOMAS R. ROESSEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN889 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DANIEL L. DUCKER, and ending PAUL J. WATKINS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN890 ARMY nomination of Scott T. Krawczyk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN891 ARMY nomination of Roland D. Aut, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN892 ARMY nomination of Eileen G. McGonagle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN893 ARMY nomination of Val L. Peterson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN894 ARMY nomination of Jordan T. Jones, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN895 ARMY nomination of Martin E. Weisse, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN896 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JEFFREY L. ANDERSON, and ending DAVID S. LEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN897 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL J. NORTON, and ending WILLIAM J. THOMAS JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN898 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JOHN J. GARCIA, and ending KEITH E.

KNOWLTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN899 ARMY nominations (2) beginning DANIEL C. DANAHER, and ending JESSE D. WADE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN900 ARMY nominations (2) beginning TRACY R. NORRIS, and ending GARY B. TOOLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN924 ARMY nomination of David M. Ruffin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN925 ARMY nomination of Todd A. Wichman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN926 ARMY nominations (431) beginning DONALD S. ABBOTT MCCUNE, and ending D070066, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN927 ARMY nominations (919) beginning MALIK A. ABDULSHAKOOR, and ending D060714, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN928 ARMY nominations (505) beginning JESSE ABREU, and ending D060773, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN929 ARMY nominations (397) beginning HECTOR J. ACOSTA ROBLES, and ending D060704, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN930 ARMY nominations (652) beginning ALBERT J. ABADESSA, and ending D070028, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN931 ARMY nominations (412) beginning DAVID W. ALLEY, and ending X1966, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN953 ARMY nomination of Shawn D. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN954 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BRIAN D. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL R. CONNERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

IN THE COAST GUARD

PN878 COAST GUARD nomination of Thomas T. Pequignot, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN946 COAST GUARD nominations (4) beginning JOSEPH E. VORBACH, and ending THOMAS W. DENUCCI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN947 COAST GUARD nominations (11) beginning JEFFREY G. ANDERSON, and ending Conrad W. Zvara, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

PN948 COAST GUARD nominations (61) beginning Christopher D. Alexander, and ending Steven A. Weiden, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 18, 2007.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN901 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jon B. Livingston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN903 MARINE CORPS nomination of Arthur E. Verdugo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

IN THE NAVY

PN843 NAVY nomination of Ronnie M. Citro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2007.

PN846 NAVY nominations (3) beginning KATHLEEN M. BALDWIN, and ending TANYA D. LEHMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN847 NAVY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL L. FARMER, and ending THOMAS S. PRICE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN848 NAVY nominations (13) beginning SUZANNA G. BRUGLER, and ending ERIK J. REYNOLDS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN849 NAVY nominations (15) beginning ALDRITH L. BAKER, and ending ENNIS E. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN850 NAVY nominations (20) beginning VICTOR ALLENDE, and ending DARREN B. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN851 NAVY nominations (21) beginning ERIK E. ANDERSON, and ending WILLIAM WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN852 NAVY nominations (36) beginning LANE C. ASKEW, and ending RICHARD M. ZAMORA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN853 NAVY nominations (43) beginning SHARON D. BARNES, and ending DEBORAH B. YUSKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN854 NAVY nominations (63) beginning JAY P. ALDEA, and ending ERIC D. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN855 NAVY nominations (211) beginning DARYL G. ADAMSON and ending MICHAEL D. YELANJIAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN856 NAVY nominations (905) beginning JEFFREY J. ABBADINI, and ending RONALD W. ZITZMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN857 NAVY nominations (21) beginning CHARLES R. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL D. VANCAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 3, 2007.

PN904 NAVY nomination of Martin K. De Fant, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN905 NAVY nomination of Gregory E. Walters, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2007.

PN932 NAVY nominations (42) beginning BRETT T. BOWLIN, and ending JEANINE B. WOMBLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN933 NAVY nominations (274) beginning RUBEN D. ACOSTA, and ending LUKE A. ZABROCKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN934 NAVY nominations (136) beginning PAUL H. ABBOTT, and ending CAROL B. ZWIEBACH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN935 NAVY nominations (35) beginning RENE J. ALOV A, and ending JOYCE N. YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN936 NAVY nominations (145) beginning MARK E. ALLEN, and ending GEORGINA L. ZUNIGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN937 NAVY nominations (95) beginning DON N. ALLEN JR., and ending JEFFERY S. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN938 NAVY nominations (27) beginning CERINO O. BARGOLA, and ending TEDDY L. WILLIAMS JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN939 NAVY nominations (57) beginning JAMES ALGER, and ending JASON N. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

PN940 NAVY nominations (10) beginning DOUGLAS E. BAKER, and ending SHEILA R. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 12, 2007.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, let me quickly indicate that the three combatant commanders who have been nominated are part of this list. Admiral Roughead, who is nominated to be the Chief of Naval Operations, is also on this list. I point out, particularly with Senator WARNER on the floor but even if he was not on the floor, not only does he play an active role in moving these nominations very expeditiously—and this is as expeditious as any nomination could move. We had the hearings yesterday, I believe, and we had the markup last night and the nomination is on the floor today for these combatant commanders and CNO. Senator WARNER, with his particular history with the U.S. Navy, was keeping an especially keen eye on the nomination of Admiral Roughead. That doesn't diminish his interest in the others. As a former Secretary of the Navy, he had a very special personal interest in this nomination moving forward and avoiding any gap between the current CNO and the next CNO. There will not be a gap. That is in good measure because of Senator WARNER's very special interest in this matter.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague and longtime friend of 29 years, standing here together with the Defense bill. It was important in this case. On Monday, the current Chief of Naval Operations, a man of great distinction, Admiral Mullen, as we say in the Navy, lowered his flag as Chief of Naval Operations and becomes the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

I felt it imperative there not be a moment's gap in the Navy for the new Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral

Roughead, who is in this group of nominations confirmed by the Senate, and that he be in position to assume the full responsibilities as soon as he is able to take the oath of office.

I thank my good friend. I thank him kindly for his personal mention. I have had a long association with the U.S. Navy. I have learned more from them than they have ever learned from me, beginning as a young sailor a half century ago. I feel a strong obligation toward all men and women in the Armed Forces, as does my distinguished chairman, but there is something very special about the U.S. Navy. I was privileged for 5 years to serve as Under Secretary and Secretary many years ago. So there will not be a gap. I thank my chairman for making that possible and allowing me to go forward with this nomination.

Mr. LEVIN. Has the Chair ruled on the request?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Consent has been granted.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank Senator SALAZAR for his patience. We wanted to get these nominations completed.

Mr. WARNER. Has the Chair formally ruled on the nominations?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

Mr. WARNER. And the President will be so notified?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I want to take this time to thank my good friends and managers of this bill, and leaders of the Armed Services Committee, Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER, for moving forward and moving quickly with the nomination of Admiral Roughead.

I mention this because I knew Admiral Roughead personally as he served in the Pacific Command. I can recall how he was a great leader in the role of taking relief to the tsunami victims in the southeast Asia area of the Pacific while he was Deputy Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. He was recently the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

I had the great fortune to work with Admiral Roughead during his tenure as deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and was consistently impressed by his skills as commanding officer, dedication to duty and commitment to protecting and defending our Nation.

Since his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973, Admiral Roughead has served this country with absolute distinction in a variety of positions including most recently commander, U.S. Fleet Forces. In particular, I want to note the leadership and compassion Admiral Roughead, as deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Command, displayed during the United States Navy's participation in the international response to the destruction following the December 2004 tsunami

in South and Southeast Asia. Similarly Admiral Roughead has demonstrated his deep understanding of the importance of honoring cultural diversity. In his capacity as representative of our U.S. naval forces, he has truly embodied the true spirit of aloha in his interactions with the many diverse communities in my home state of Hawaii.

I look forward to continuing to work with Admiral Roughead in his new capacity and I am pleased to support his confirmation as chief of Naval Operations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to morning business, with the understanding that the remarks that are made in morning business that relate to the bill that is currently on the floor be placed at the appropriate place in the proceedings as part of the debate on the Defense authorization bill but that we now technically move to morning business, with Senators limited to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LEVIN. I, again, thank Senator SALAZAR.

Mr. WARNER. If I might ask my colleague, I think it is the intention of the leadership that this bill—I believe it is in the order—will be brought up again on Monday, with the hope and expectation that we will complete the bill during the course of business on Monday.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator is correct. I think the unanimous consent agreement actually provides that all votes remaining on this bill begin at approximately 5:30. That is the expectation. And we again thank everybody who was involved in working out that unanimous consent.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after Senator SALAZAR is recognized, Senator AKAKA be recognized at that point for his remarks in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if I might add, earlier I had the opportunity, as did the chairman, to speak to Senator AKAKA. Admiral Roughead served with great distinction in an assignment in Hawaii and is personally known to the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to speak about the Department of Defense authorization bill, which is a very good bill that has been put together with the leadership of my good friend, Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER, Senator MCCAIN, and others, who have been involved in this legislation. I come to the floor to speak in support of this legislation, and I am certain when we get to Monday we will have a resounding adoption of this bill, which is so important to our men and women in uniform across the globe.

I will be supporting this legislation, but what will be missing from this legislation is legislation that crafts a new way forward in Iraq, a way forward that transitions our mission from one of combat, policing a sectarian civil war, to one which is a limited mission that I believe both Democrats and Republicans believe we should be able to attain in Iraq.

It is in that context that I was proud to have been one of the participants in crafting the legislation that would have implemented the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. I thank the 17 cosponsors of that legislation for trying to help this body find a way out of the wilderness of Iraq and move forward with a bipartisan approach that would unite our Nation behind an effort that we ultimately agree must result in bringing our troops home from Iraq and maximizing the possibility for us to bring about some level of security in Iraq and defend the strategic interests of the United States in that region and around the world.

But it wasn't only the 17 sponsors we had on the legislation which Senator ALEXANDER and I crafted with the Iraq Study Group, there were also other efforts that were underway in this Chamber during the last week to try to figure out whether there was a common way forward. Senator LEVIN, Senator VOINOVICH, Senator NELSON, Senator COLLINS, and others were very involved in that effort, and it is not over. My hope is that as we move forward in debating what is the foreign policy and national security issue of our time that there may be a way in which we can unite the country in a common way forward.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I want to commend the Senator for the leadership he has taken in this area. I had the opportunity to work with the Senator. As a matter of fact, one of the amendments we jointly worked on eventually became law in the appropriations cycle that required Ambassador Crocker to come before the Senate, General Petraeus to come before the Senate, and the President to make a report to the Nation.

We also created the Jones Commission. All of these matters had the Senator's support all along, and I wish to